

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway  
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### **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

October 23, 2007

A Southeast Missouri man pled guilty today to unlawful possession of firearms, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**ERIC W. NORTHERN**, age 28, of Morehouse, Missouri, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of firearms. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

In August, 2005, a Scott County resident discovered that three firearms of his had been stolen from a shed at his residence. In early September, 2005, Eric W. Northern was in possession of the three firearms, described as a Mossberg, 12 gauge shotgun, bearing serial number UM691678, and a Mossberg, 12 gauge shotgun, bearing serial number UM98067, and a Mossberg, 12 gauge shotgun, bearing serial number P129580. Mr. Northern gave two of the

shotguns to a man in settlement of a debt. Mr. Northern sold the third shotgun to another man. All three shotguns were recovered during the investigation of this offense.

Due to Mr. Northern's five previous felony convictions for burglary, he is prohibited from possessing firearms and now faces a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for January 28, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Scott County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.